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Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 13 October 1997, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Chowdhury ..... (Bangladesh)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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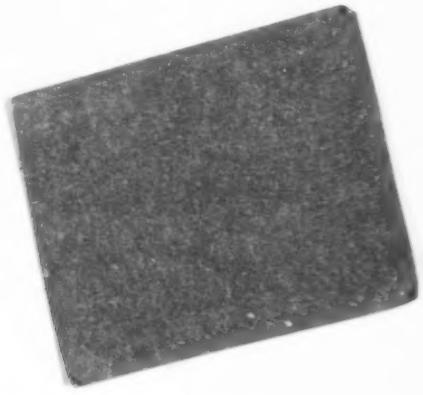

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 142: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.3

1. **Ms. Peña** (Mexico) introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.3, which consisted of two parts: one entitled "Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy" and one entitled "Management of peacekeeping assets: Field assets control system". Since the text had been agreed upon in informal consultations, she recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.3 was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Boynton** (United States of America) said that the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi was an indispensable part of the comprehensive system for managing assets, including peacekeeping assets. His delegation was pleased that the Committee had reaffirmed that the Brindisi facility was the Organization's permanent logistics base.

4. The United States felt that the Logistics Base should have a budget. It would have preferred to take a decision on the matter at the current meeting, as it did not believe that the inventory backlog at the Logistics Base had to be cleared before such a decision could be taken. Reports should be submitted, and decisions taken, at the first resumed session, on the future financing of the Logistics Base. On that occasion, the Committee would also consider storing other assets at the Base, such as assets of the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

5. His delegation had been concerned to learn that, contrary to what the Secretary-General had implied in his report, assets of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs were currently stored in the facility in Pisa, Italy, and could remain there until April 1999. There should be only one logistics facility in Italy. He asked for an explanation of the Secretariat's previous statement that the Pisa facility had been closed for "regular budget purposes", and of how much and what type of money was involved in the facility.

6. The inventory backlog at Brindisi must be cleared expeditiously, effectively and efficiently, preferably by the first resumed session so that the problem would cease to distract the Committee's attention from the role of the Logistics Base as part of the comprehensive asset management system. A report should be submitted on the backlog liquidation and the amount of money spent on it.

7. With respect to asset management, he urged the Secretariat to complete and issue all relevant manuals, including the Operational Support Manual.

8. With respect to the staff of the Brindisi facility, his delegation did not recognize and would not agree to international General Service posts or to a designated resident auditor post. Any audit functions could be carried out using the United Nations system's existing audit capabilities.

9. He urged the Secretariat and the Logistics Base to ensure that the Base was functioning at peak efficiency by the first resumed session. Meanwhile, the monthly commitment level approved by the Committee was greater than the reported monthly expenditure level between July and September 1997. Thus, the Base had more than enough funds to function optimally. The Secretariat should ensure that it performed efficiently, effectively and with maximum cost-effectiveness.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.